

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 ABF-01 FSE-00 RSC-01 /019 R

66609

DRAFTED BY: SMI:KBSCHMERTZ

APPROVED BY: OES/SCI/BMP:MSBEAUBIEN

SMI:RPHIGGINS

NEA/AFM:DLMACK

OES/SCI/BMP:AERICHMOND INFO

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R 232229Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS STATE 280470

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, TY

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP-ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR SMITHSONIAN
GRANTEES

1. SMI OFFICER ROBERT HIGGINS, JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT ON
MMSC BUSINESS REPORTS EMBASSY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE WORKLOAD OF
SUPPLYING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TOSFCP GRANTEES THAT HAS BEEN
PROVIDED BY MMSC.

2. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH VERY MODEST
GRANTEES CENTER, EMPLOYING SERVICES SOME MMSC PERSONNEL, TO BE
FINANCED AS OVERHEAD THROUGH ONE OR MORE OF THE LARGER
PROJECTS. HIGHLY PREFERABLE IMPLEMENT ANY SUCH PLAN INFORMALLY:
A GOVT TO GOVT AGREEMENT COULD WELL IMPOSE COSTS OUTWEIGHING
BENEFITS.

3. WE HAVE IN MIND RETAINING ONE FLOOR OF HOUSE CURRENTLY RENTED
FOR RESEARCH, LIKE THAT OF MAMMALS PROJECT, WHERE (AT MOST)
NOUREDDINE BAKAR, DARGHOUTH AND GHAZEIL, AND POSSIBLY NIGHT
WATCHMAN FROM MMSC STAFF, WITH ONE
VEHICLE, MIGHT MAINTAIN FINAINCIAL RECORDS, ASSIST WITH
TRAVEL, SHIPPING PERMITS, CUSTOMS AND OTHER RESEARCH PROJECT
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RELATED PROBLEMS.

4. SMI CONSIDERING DESERT RESEARCH PROJECT AS APPROPRIATE TO ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE YEAR-ROUND SUPERVISION POSSIBLE BY GEORGE NOVIKOFF WHO ALSO WELL KNOWN IN TUNISIAN CIRCLES, AND BECAUSE OF COMPARATIVELY LONG DURATION HIS PROJECT. AMERICAN PI WAGNER WRITING NOVIKOFF ABOUT WORABILITY FOR HIM. EMBASSY REQUESTED AWAIT APPROACH BY NOVIKOFF RATHER THAN TAKING INITIATIVE CONTACT HIM.

5. SMI WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND, IF THESE ARE FAVORABLE, MMSC PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COSTS.

6. SMI NOT YET IN A POSITION TO REACH DECISION, AND THIS INQUIRY NECESSARILY TENTATIVE. KISSINGER

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